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group competition, would, so far as possible, utterly suppress the competition between individuals and classes. The common sense of mankind has always seen that either of these extreme policies would be disastrous. A measure of intra-group competition and natural selection is necessary for progress. At the same time, social cohesion is no less necessary for success in the world struggle. A sound social policy endeavors always to maintain social cohesion with a minimum restriction of individual liberty.

Of Professor Pearson's studies of the early social evolution of the Germanic races, only the warmest praise can be recorded. In his essay on "Woman as Witch" and in that on "Kindred Group-Marriage" he has marshaled an array of evidence from custom, superstition, folklore and philology which will render it extremely difficult for any student who patiently follows him hereafter to defend the rapidly crumbling belief that the Aryan races were originally patriarchal in their social organization, and that metronymic relationships prevailed only among inferior peoples. The witch, as Professor Pearson clearly shows, was originally a tribal priestess; and priestesses are not found in a patriarchal society, except as survivals from the earlier days of mother-right. May-day festivities and innumerable forms of dancing and choral song, still found among the European peasantry, are survivals of festivities which originally were licentious in character and integral parts of a metronymic social order. The study of "Kindred Group-Marriage" is a detailed examination of the Germanic and Celtic words for sex and kinship. No student of Germanic origins can afford to ignore Professor Pearson's work in this field.

FRANKLIN H. GIDDINGS.

Statistik und Gesellschaftslehre. Von DR. GEORG VON MAYR.
Zweiter Band: *Bevölkerungsstatistik.* Freiburg i. B., Verlag von
J. C. B. Mohr, 1897. — 486 pp.

This is the second volume of Dr. von Mayr's monumental work on statistics. The first¹ covered the theory, method and technique of the science, together with a consideration of statistical administration and a sketch of the history of statistics. Having thus already told us what statistical science is, its object, its method, its practice and its history, the author proposes in the present and a third volume to give us results — that is, actual statistics. This is to be done, not in a merely descriptive or encyclopædic way, but scientifically — that is,

¹ See POLITICAL SCIENCE QUARTERLY, X, 475 (September, 1895).

with the aid of the apparatus described in the first volume. This method of treatment turns the "*praktische Statistik*" into an "*exakte Sozialwissenschaft*."

This conception of statistics is an interesting one and deserves a moment's consideration before speaking of the results as displayed in this volume. The process of statistical investigation comprises three steps. The first consists in establishing the statistical facts, *i.e.*, pure observation. The second consists in comparing the facts. This comparison can be either in space, *e.g.*, birth-rates in different countries; or it may be in time, *e.g.*, varying birth-rate in England from year to year. The third step consists in generalization from these comparisons, so as to establish regularities or laws. A systematic presentation of all the facts capable of statistical observation, correct comparison of them and truthful generalization from them would constitute the complete "*praktische Statistik*" noticed above.

As a matter of fact, we are very far from having complete observation of all social phenomena capable of statistical measurement. Still further, the material we have is often unsatisfactory; and for many regions exact observations are entirely lacking, *e.g.*, the population of Africa. Scientific method, in the present state of our knowledge, consists to a large extent, therefore, in describing how imperfect the material is, how faulty most comparisons must be, and *a fortiori* upon what doubtful basis our generalizations, or laws, must rest. This seems something of a drop from the ambitious rôle of an "*exakte Sozialwissenschaft*"; but it is a tribute to the honesty, conscientiousness and exhaustive learning of the author that his method thus seems to pull out the foundations from the very science it is seeking to establish. It is self-evident that this is the only honest way of proceeding, and that we gain more by criticism than we should gain by superficial generalities and vague analogies. Possibly there is a lesson here for the sociologists.

An outline of the treatment of a single topic will illustrate all the above points. Taking up population statistics, in the English sense of vital statistics, the author says that "our ideal field of investigation (*Forschungsgebiet*) would be the totality of the masses of human individuals which have existed in the past, which exist in the present, and which shall exist in the future" (p. 8). The practical limitations upon this ideal are at once evident: we have scarcely any knowledge of the past; of great masses of existing men we have no statistical observation; and of the few civilized nations which cultivate statistics our knowledge is very incomplete. In the last case our knowledge of

population is based partly on estimate, partly on official calculation, and only partly on enumeration. The enumerations or censuses vary in exactness, in technical method, in completeness and in variety of observation. It is only after this laborious consideration of the method of observation that we get to the results of population statistics, such as the population of different countries, rate of increase, density, distribution in city and country, and classification by sex, age, conjugal condition, nationality, domicile, birthplace, occupation, *etc.* The rest of the volume treats in a similar way of births, deaths and marriages; while for a third volume are reserved moral, intellectual, economic and political statistics.

It has seemed best in this review simply to indicate Dr. von Mayr's method. It remains to be added that this is carried out with great thoroughness. The book is a most complete encyclopædia of statistical facts. The bibliography is exhaustive, and is given piecemeal in connection with each section. This necessitates an enormous amount of repetition of titles, but renders reference to specific topics extremely easy. The critical apparatus sometimes appears a little ponderous, but it is as important in the present state of statistical knowledge to know what the figures do not show as to know what they do show. No one who wishes his statistical knowledge of social phenomena to be critical and exact can afford to neglect this work, even if he uses it only as an encyclopædia.

RICHMOND MAYO-SMITH.

Wesen und Zweck der Politik, als Theil der Sociologie und Grundlage der Staatswissenschaften. Von GUSTAV RATZENHOFER. Brockhaus, Leipzig, 1893.—Drei Bände, pp. i-x, 400, 363, 475.

This treatise on political philosophy takes the same general standpoint as that which is found in Willoughby's much more compendious volume on *The Nature of the State*. According to Ratzenhofer, the nature and purpose of public policy has to be determined (1) by studying the sociological foundations of organized authority; (2) by defining the universal elements inherent in public policy itself, including political individuality, interests, conflicts, systems; (3) by describing the state as the organized form within which the political functions have their scope and development as part of the social process. The author here gives prominence to the play of those political interests on the basis of which parties are organized, and discusses the functions of the two great divisions of political popula-